



sica news

School Improvement Council Assistance

Winter 2001

15th Annual Conference Features National Speakers

Larger Conference Center; On-line Registration

The 15th Annual School Improvement Council Conference, "From the Back Porch to the Board Room: Finding Resources for Your School," promises to be the biggest and best event SICA has ever hosted. The theme of this year's conference encourages Councils to take stock of the people, businesses, organizations, and programs in their community and in our state. Resources for schools are all around us if we only know where to look.

Partnering with Communities in Schools – SC and the SC PTA "Can We Talk?" Project has enabled SICA to secure nationally recognized speakers for the conference. We are also proud to feature South Carolina's own Teacher of the Year. We have moved to a larger hotel to ensure your physical comfort during the conference and our new on-line registration process makes it easier than ever to reserve your place. You can choose from a wide variety of workshop sessions to assist you in making your Council the best it can be. This year's conference will entertain, inform, engage, challenge and honor School Improvement Council members. You will leave the conference energized, ready to implement new ideas at home, and knowing the importance of your Council's work.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Keynote speaker **Lorraine Johnson-Coleman** is a master storyteller, best selling author and nationally recognized expert on rural African American and southern culture. She will inspire and entertain with her address "Better Days & Worsen Times – Learning Lessons from School Days of Our Past". Lorraine's incorporation of African American folk culture into her tales of every

day living have led her to be in great demand as a lecturer and workshop leader. Her first book *Just Plain Folks* was a November 1998 featured selection of the Book-Of-The-Month-Club and the audio book on which Lorraine performed the stories, won a 1998 Publishers Weekly Listen Up Award. As a storyteller, Lorraine has the unique ability to mix both humor and drama, in a manner that holds audiences spellbound. As a recognized expert in African American folk culture and project development, Lorraine has consulted for numerous prominent organizations nationwide including Hewlett Packard, American Association of Museums, African American Museums Association, the 1996 Olympics, the National Parks Service and the Kellogg Foundation.

LUNCHEON ADDRESS



A columnist in *The State* newspaper wrote recently that on the day **Christa Compton** was selected as South Carolina's State Teacher of the Year, the headline should have been: "Brilliant woman forsakes all other professions and chooses teaching." Christa was a Jefferson Scholar at the University of Virginia, where she received her bachelor's degree with distinction and also her master's degree. She has been a classroom teacher for seven years, all of them at Richland Northeast High School in Columbia. Christa will provide the luncheon address; a marvelously creative monologue she wrote about her first year of teaching called "Every Day" that will touch and inspire you.

ENDNOTE



The conference will end with an energetic address, "Character, Creativity and Challenges," from **Dominic Cappello**. He is the creator of the National Education Association's "Can We Talk?" parent-child communication programs and the author of *Ten Talks Parents Must Have with their Children About Violence*. Dom has recently spent a lot of time in South Carolina training local facilitators for the "Can We Talk?" parent workshops sponsored by the SC PTA and co-sponsored by SICA. He is the co-author (with Pepper Schwartz, Ph.D.) of the national best selling book *Ten Talks Parents Must Have with their Children About Sex and Character*. Dom was featured on "Oprah" last October helping parents learn how to have those talks with their children. He is currently developing *Ten Talks Parents Must Have with their Children About Drugs* (Sept. 2001).

(See *Workshop Sampler p. 3*)

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Report to the Parents - How To _____ p. 2
- Conference Agenda _____ p. 2
- Workshop Sampler _____ p. 3
- Action Time Line _____ p. 3
- Mark Your Calendar _____ p. 4
- Conference Registration Form _____ p. 5

Report to the Parents A “Required Opportunity”

Progress made during the past year is the message of the “Report to the Parents” due to be distributed to every parent by February 1st of each school year. The SIC was given the responsibility for writing the report as a result of Act 135 which outlines the information to be included.

Thinking of the requirement as an opportunity, the SIC can turn the report into a positive public relations publication for the school. It can provide good visibility for the school in the larger community when distributed to the parents as well as businesses and organizations around the school. The report should describe the school’s activities and accomplishments in clear language, providing explanations and avoiding education jargon.

Schools are to report the main goals or strategies they have set for themselves in the 5-year improvement/renewal plan and what activities or programs are being implemented this year to achieve the goals. Information about test scores, attendance, accreditation, and other measures should be included. Parents and community members are also interested in awards, recognitions, program details, and grant awards that teachers and students have earned during the past year.

How to Organize

Advance planning will make the actual preparation of the report easier to accomplish. Each SIC member has talents to contribute in the writing, design, proofing, and distribution of the report and can be expected to participate in getting the report ready.

Decide on the deadline for the report to be completed and then count back from that date to identify the deadlines for each of the steps contributing to the completed report.

Think about what parents and the school community want to know about the school’s progress. Consider how simply and straightforward it can be stated. Remember that the report is a condensed version of last year’s accomplishments and this year’s plans stated in general terms.

Identify the information needed and who has it. Collect the information and develop a draft of each section of the report from the information. Use the strengths of the members: someone who likes numbers does the test information and other quantifiable data while another writes the description of the awards by students.

Develop a design and format for the report that is easy to follow and displays the information clearly. The reader’s attention should be drawn to the information by the way the information is placed on the paper through changes in headline size or graphics or columns. Graphs are easily understood by everyone and are recommended if more than one year of test scores are included so that the reader easily sees the basis for progress and the need for improvement.

Assemble the sections of the report and review the contents for clarity. Is it easy to read and understand? Does it tell the story of the school? Has education jargon been avoided? Do all tables or graphs have appropriate explanations? When the SIC has reviewed it, ask others who have not seen it to review it too.

Determine the distribution possibilities for the school. The method of distribution can affect the format of the report. The choice of paper, the number of pages, the cost of postage, and the reliability of “student delivery” all affect how the report is organized and printed. Consider mailing it or sending it home; consider inviting a community organization to assist with the distribution through a corporate mailing. This might be an opportunity to work with the PTA/O or business partner to cover the cost of printing and/or mailing the report.

Promote the fact to the parents that the report is coming and how they will receive it. Make the report a “required opportunity” and create something the SIC is proud to distribute.

For additional information about writing the report, contact the SIC District Contact, call SICA, or access the SICA web site for samples.

From the Back Porch to the Board Room: Finding Resources for Your School

Conference Agenda

8:15 – 9:15 AM	Registration – Exhibits Open Refreshments
9:15 AM	General Session Keynote Address – Lorraine Johnson-Coleman Sponsored by Communities in Schools – SC
11:00 AM – Noon	Workshop Session I
Noon – 1:00 PM	Lunch Luncheon Address – Christa Compton SC Teacher of the Year
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	Workshop Session II
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Closing Session Endnote Address – Dominic Cappello Sponsored by “Can We Talk?” Project - SC PTA
3:15 PM	Adjourn

(continued from p. 1)

WORKSHOP SAMPLER

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to choose two sessions from a variety of workshops intended to inform, engage and challenge your School Improvement Council. Below is just a sample of the 16 workshops that will be offered at this year's conference. Plan to bring several Council members and have each member attend a different session to maximize the amount of information you bring back to your school!

Empowering Youth for Community Development

For and about youth, this session will focus on the value of helping our young people develop their full potential and become leaders. Robert Carlton, Director of Youth Development, DHEC.

Where the Grants Are

Learn the basics about grants. Just what is a grant? Where do you find one? How do you apply? Jennifer Alcock, Director of Grantmaking, Central Carolina Community Foundation.

Principal Leadership + Community Involvement = High School Success!

How principal and parents worked together to create the very successful A.C. Flora Foundation and brought health programs, an IB program and more to the most diverse high school in the state. Dr. Sherrill Martin, principal, and parent, Betsy Wolff.

Expanding Truancy Diversion Best Practice Programs

Learn about successful programs that divert truants and provide a holistic approach to keeping kids in school and out of jail. Mary Louise Resch, SC Center for Family Policy; Calvin "Chip" Jackson, Deputy Superintendent, SC Department of Education.

"Can We Talk?"

Come for a sample of the innovative new workshop that helps parents develop strategies for talking with their children about the really tough issues in life. Find out how to sponsor a workshop series in your community. "Can We Talk?" creator Dominic Cappello; Dan Jepson, Project Director; Kelli Kenison, Project Coordinator, SC PTA.

Education Oversight Committee Update

Members of the EOC discuss progress on implementation of the Education Accountability Act including school report cards and ratings. Bob Staton (invited) and Senator John Matthews (invited).

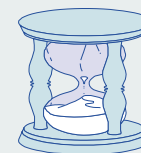
Effective School Improvement Councils

A variety of School Improvement Councils from around the state will share their leadership skills, methods, programs and resources. Many have been recognized by the SC Board of Education, Schools of Promise and SC Healthy Schools for their demonstrated effectiveness.

Legislative Update

Learn the latest information on legislative action that affects our children and schools. Senator Nikki Setzler (invited) and Representative Ronald Townsend (invited).

SIC ACTION TIMELINE



JANUARY

- Compile information and draft the school's annual Report to the Parents (due February 1st)
- Continue to monitor strategy implementation of the school's 5-year plan
- Identify members to attend annual SIC Conference on February 17th (see pages 4 and 5)
- Decide to meet for the SIC State Meeting Broadcast on February 1st or make arrangements to have it taped.

FEBRUARY

- Distribute Report to the Parents, February 1.
- SIC State Meeting Broadcast. 7:00pm-8:00pm via ETV satellite channel 303, February 1st; Rebroadcast February 9th (see page 4 for details)
- Continue to monitor strategy implementation of the 5-year plan. Attend the annual SIC Conference, February 17 in Columbia

MARCH

- Continue to gather information about the implementation of the strategic plan
- Start to identify the end of year information needed to evaluate the success of the strategies implemented this year

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION LIMITED

SIC members are encouraged to register as soon as possible. The conference is limited to 450 participants and no on-site registration will be accepted. SICA is committed to providing our members with the best conference experience possible and to do that, we must have time to properly prepare the convention space, order food and print enough materials for all attendees. So please fill out and return your registration form today!

Mark Your Calendar!



The Next Step in Accountability: Parent Involvement

SICA has scheduled an additional session of this popular workshop and rescheduled the session planned for the Charleston area in October that was cancelled due to presenter illness. School teams of three or more people (including the principal) are required. A light meal and materials are included in the registration fee of \$10 per person. Call SICA to register, 800-868-2232 or 803-777-7658.

January 23, 2001

SC Association of School Administrators
121 Westpark Blvd., Columbia
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

DEADLINE to register: Wednesday, January 17

January 25, 2001 – Rescheduled from October 26, 2000

Charleston School District
75 Calhoun Street, Charleston
3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

DEADLINE to register: Friday, January 19.

(Currently open only to those who were registered in October. Call ASAP to hold your place. If you were NOT previously registered, but would like to attend, please call to be placed on the waiting list.)

February 8, 2001

Horry County School District
1605 Horry St., Conway
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

DEADLINE to register: Thursday, February 1



From the Back Porch to the Board Room: Finding Resources for Your School

15th Annual SIC Conference February 17, 2001

SICA proudly invites you to attend our 15th Annual Conference, featuring keynote speaker Lorraine Johnson-Coleman, author of *Just Plain Folks*, and creator of the National Public Radio program of the same name. SC Teacher of the Year, Christa Compton, will present "Every Day," a monologue about her first year of teaching. The endnote address will be delivered by Dominic Cappello, the creator of "Can We Talk?", who recently appeared on *Oprah* to discuss his new book, *Ten Talks Parents Must Have with Their Children About Sex and Character*. Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, Columbia; contact SICA or visit our website www.ed.sc.edu/sica/sica.html to register on-line. Fee: \$30 includes lunch, break and materials.

Winter 2001



SIC State Meeting Broadcast

February 1, 2001

7:00- 8:00 p.m. via ETV Satellite
Channel 303

February 9, 2001

Repeat Broadcast
ETV - Channel 322

Agenda: - The school report card and rating system
- 15th Annual SIC Conference details

Live Broadcast!

Call 800-733-9207 to participate!



Can We Talk?

"Can We Talk?" is a fun, interactive series of four workshops that help parents enhance their role in their children's health and sexuality education.

Facilitator Training – Sponsored by SC PTA and co-sponsored by SICA, this training includes meals, snacks and materials **at no cost** to participants. All trainings will be conducted by Dominic Cappello, developer of "Can We Talk?" and trainer for the PTA and National Education Association Health Information Network. Facilitators will leave the training ready to conduct the four-part parent workshop in their own communities. For more information or to register, call Kelli Kenison, Project Coordinator, 803-695-9955.

February 15, 2001

Location TBA
Columbia
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Parent Workshops – Trained facilitators are now available to conduct the Can We Talk? workshops in all areas of South Carolina. If you would like to schedule one in your community, please call Kelli Kenison, Project Coordinator, 803-695-9955. All materials for parents are provided at **no charge**.



Our Communities...Our Youth

2001 Governor's Conference on Children and Youth – will be held **March 1-2** at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center in Columbia. Featured speakers include USC coach Lou Holtz and nationally known principal, Joe Clark. Breakout session feature the work of community youth councils and other programs affecting youth. Dr. Jean Norman, Executive Director of SICA will participate in a session on school-family-community collaboration. Call the SC Center for Family Policy 803-896-8486 or visit www.sccenterforfamilypolicy.org to register.

From the Back Porch to the Boardroom: Finding Resources for Your School

February 17, 2001

Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center
Bush River Rd. at I-20
Columbia, SC

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- ◆ Conference capacity is limited to 450. Please register as soon as possible.
- ◆ Registration deadline: Friday, February 9, 2001. **No on-site registration accepted.**
- ◆ One **completed** registration form **per person** please. Copy this form as needed.
- ◆ Registration fee - \$30.00 per person. Non-refundable. Includes conference materials, luncheon and morning coffee break.
- ◆ Three convenient ways to register:
 - **fax:** 803-777-0023
 - **online:** www.ed.sc.edu/sica/sica.html
 - **mail:** SICA - College of Education
University of South Carolina
Columbia SC 29208
(*must be postmarked by February 9, 2001*)
- ◆ Please make checks payable to SICA and mail to the address above.
- ◆ Registration confirmation will be mailed to you. If you have not received your confirmation by Wednesday, February 14, please contact us to ensure your registration (803-777-7658 or 800-868-2232).

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

(One *completed* registration form *per person* please.)

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ FAX _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

METHOD of PAYMENT:

____ check enclosed

____ school paying fee

authorized by _____
position _____

P.O. Number _____

____ district office paying fee

authorized by _____
position _____

P.O. Number _____

For Your Information. . .

The unique role of school boards in governing America's public schools receives special attention each January during National School Board Recognition month. The theme, Leadership for Learning, emphasizes the primary role of school



boards - to assure high academic achievement for all students in a cooperative relationship with their communities.

The National School Boards Association and the South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) sponsor the annual recognition. In the Palmetto State, several other organizations are also co-sponsors including School Improvement Council Assistance.

For more information, contact Ellen H. Henderson, 1-800-326-3679 or ellenhh@bellsouth.net.

And The Winner Is. . .



The SC Board of Education recognized three School Improvement Councils at their annual luncheon honoring the contributions of volunteers and Councils for their improvement efforts in the state's schools. Councils are nominated by their district and are selected at the state level for the award. This year's winning Councils are **Windsor Elementary**, Richland #2; **Bethel-Hanberry Elementary**, Richland #2; and **York Road Elementary**, Rock Hill #3. Information about the award process can be directed to Terry Cash, SC Department of Education, 803-736-5338, Ext.125.

CONGRATULATIONS to these outstanding School Improvement Councils, recognized for their efforts to provide leadership for the betterment of their schools. The SICs will be featured during the annual SIC Conference (for more information see page 4).

Winter 2001

SICA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

d'Rue Hazel, Chair - Irmo, SC

Joel Brockman - Greenville, SC

Donald Caughman - Columbia, SC

Betty Gregory - Columbia, SC

Richard Mock - Charleston, SC

Tom Richardson - Moncks Corner, SC

Imogene Steele - Lancaster, SC

Mamie Templeton - Spartanburg, SC

Robert Zuercher - Myrtle Beach, SC

SICA NEWS. . .

... is published by School Improvement Council Assistance, USC College of Education, Wardlaw Bldg., Room 001, Columbia, SC 29208. Comments, ideas, questions and articles are welcome. Please contact Cassie Barber, Editor, at:

1-800-868-2232 or 803-777-7658

website: www.ed.sc.edu/sica/sica.html

e-mail: sica@gwm.sc.edu

Jean M. Norman, Ed.D.

Executive Director

Cassie Barber

Director of Program Services

Jennifer Robinson

Lowcountry Program Services Coordinator

1-877-519-4765

Carol Vickery

Upstate Program Services Coordinator

1-877-519-4764

Weldon Horne

Administrative Coordinator

The University of South Carolina system provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or veteran status.

Page 6

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
P • A • I • D
Permit 766
Columbia, SC

SICA School Improvement Council Assistance
USC College of Education
Wardlaw Bldg., Room 001
Columbia, SC 29208
15th Annual Conference Issue!

